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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/847,658	05/02/2001	Wolfgang Singer	82704	7054

7590 06/24/2003

Gerald T. Shekleton, Esq.
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EXAMINER

CHOI, WILLIAM C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2873

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Notic of Allowability

Application No.

09/847,658

Examiner

William C. Choi

Applicant(s)

SINGER ET AL.

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment C filed on 6/10/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 7, 19-25, 27-32 and 34-42.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 May 2001 and 07 April 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

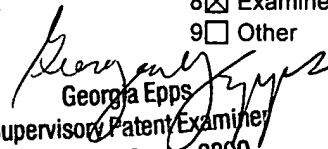
7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |


Georgia Epps
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gerald Shekleton on 6/19/2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. Claim 36, line 3, after "claim" delete "26" and insert --20--.

Allowed Claims: 1-3, 7, 19-25, 27-32 and 34-42.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art either alone or in combination disclose or teach of the claimed combination of limitations to warrant a rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103. Specifically, with respect to independent claim 1, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a projection lens as claimed, specifically wherein the gas chamber is constructed as an at least approximately plane-parallel manipulation chamber located between the lens arrangement and the image plane.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 2, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a projection lens as claimed, specifically wherein the

gas chamber is constructed as an at least approximately plane-parallel manipulation chamber located between the lens arrangement and the image plane.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 3, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a projection lens as claimed, specifically wherein the gas chamber is constructed as an at least approximately plane-parallel manipulation chamber located between the lens arrangement and the image plane.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 19, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a system for projection lens as claimed, specifically wherein the gas chamber is a manipulation chamber formed between adjacent plane-parallel optical elements.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 20, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a system for projection lens as claimed, specifically including an at least approximately plane-parallel manipulable gas interspace, for the purpose of removing field curvature, on a substrate, which is to be exposed, in a sixth optical group.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 21, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a system for projection lens as claimed, specifically wherein the gas chamber is constructed between adjacent approximately plane-parallel optical elements to form a manipulation chamber.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 29, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a method for producing microstructured components

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as claimed, specifically wherein the refractive index is manipulated by pressure changes and changes in gas composition.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 37, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a projection lens for microlithography as claimed, specifically wherein the gas chamber is a manipulation chamber formed between adjacent plane-parallel optical elements.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 38, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a projection lens for microlithography as claimed, specifically wherein the gas chamber is constructed between adjacent plane-parallel optical elements to form a manipulation chamber.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 39, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a projection lens for microlithography as claimed, specifically wherein the gas chamber is constructed between adjacent approximately plane-parallel optical elements to form a manipulation chamber.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 40, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a projection lens as claimed, specifically wherein the gas chamber is located between an end plate and the lens situated adjacent to the end plate.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 41, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a projection lens as claimed, specifically wherein the gas chamber is located between an end plate and the lens situated adjacent to the end plate.

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Specifically, with respect to independent claim 42, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a projection lens as claimed, specifically wherein the gas chamber is located between an end plate and the lens situated adjacent to the end plate.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Choi whose telephone number is (703) 305-3100. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from about 9:00 am to 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y. Epps can be reached on (703) 308-4883. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3431 for regular communications and (703) 305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

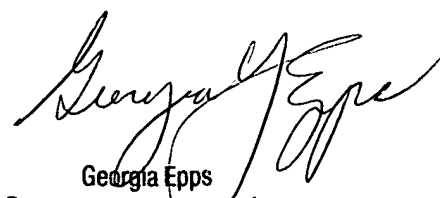
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W. C.

William Choi
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2873
June 19, 2003



Georgia Epps
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800